

Remarks:

These remarks are responsive to the Office action dated October 30, 2008. Prior to entry of this response, claims 2-5, 7, 8, 12-24, 27-39, 44, and 46 were pending in the application, with claims 13-24, 27-39, and 43 having already been withdrawn from consideration. By way of this response, claims 4 and 8 are amended, and claims 2, 3, 44, and 46 are cancelled, without prejudice. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the application and allowance of the pending claims.

Claims 4, 5, 7, 8, and 12 are indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter.

To expedite prosecution of the application and pass allowable subject matter to issuance, rejected claims 2, 3, 44, and 46 are hereby cancelled without prejudice. Claims 4 and 8 have been rewritten in independent form and include all limitations of their previously presented base and intervening claims. As such, Applicants believe claims 4 and 8 are now in condition for allowance. Claims 5, 7, and 12 depend from amended claims 4 and 8, respectively, and thus these claims are believed allowable for at least the reason of dependence on an allowable base claim.

Applicants believe that this application is now in condition for allowance, in view of the above amendments and remarks. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner issue a Notice of Allowability covering the pending claims. If the Examiner has any questions, or if a telephone interview would in any way advance prosecution of the application, please contact the undersigned attorney of record.

Please charge any cost incurred in the filing of this response, along with any other costs, to Deposit Account No. 503397.

Respectfully submitted,

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